

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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Katta Kurgan (39°55'N, 66°15'E)

1. The town, situated on the railway 70 kms NW of Samarkand, has a population of 50,000. There are 40 villages in this area, whose inhabitants are engaged in cotton and tobacco growing.
2. The Mikoyan Oil Extraction Plant is said locally to be the second largest cottonseed oil plant in the world. The factory is controlled and directed from Moscow. Machinery was installed in 1937. cotton 50X1-HUM seeds and the oil extracted therefrom are processed with gasoline and that a number of workmen receive burns. The monthly output is about 500 tons. The factory is operated night and day. No foreigners are employed here and none are allowed to approach the works. Pay of technicians and workers varies between 200 and 1,500 rubles per month, according to individual output. Thefts of oil by factory hands are frequent as a result of the low wages paid. The factory products are sent northward by rail, in particular to Moscow and Leningrad, and are used for military purposes. 50X1-HUM Comment: The processing of cottonseed oil with gasoline would produce a fuel suitable for reciprocating engines using low octane fuel or for jet engines with high combustion temperature. In view of the destination of the product, it is likely that it is being used for jet engines.)

3. A large cotton mill is situated near the railway track in Katta Kurgan.

Kermine (40°08'N, 65°11'E)

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4. The population of Kermine (6,000) is engaged in tobacco and cotton growing.
5. The Kermine railway station is small, with four to six sidings.
6. Cotton Mill No. 72 lies about 50 meters north of the railway station and is known as the Kermine Area Cotton Mill. The brick building has eight cotton-gins. Machinery was installed in 1945. Engines are 750 HP, electrically

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driven; it is said locally that these were originally used in a submarine but were found unsatisfactory and removed. About 600 workers are employed nine hours a day. Wages vary between 200 and 500 rubles per month.

Balkhash

7. The following enterprises are located at Balkhash, Kazakh SSR

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a. Copper Smelting Works under the Ministry of Non-Ferrous Metallurgy. This is a rather large works with many buildings under construction. The works receives ore from the Kounrad, Uspenski, and Dzhezkazan mines. There is a molybdenum plant in operation at the works which produces molybdenum concentrates (screened molybdenum ore) from molybdenum ore received from the Kounrad mines. The output of copper in 1947 exceeded that of 1946 by nearly 2,000 tons. The output of molybdenum concentrate and molybdenum ore has also increased. The director is Desyatnikov.

b. Non-Ferrous Metal Treatment Factory No. 517 under the Ministry of Non-Ferrous Metallurgy. This is a large and well-equipped factory engaged in rolling and treating various non-ferrous metals. The director is Evseyev.

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